

FARMS AND THEIR PESTS.

The everyday criticism of small farming in Hawaii is that, while the land yields well and market prices are high, it does not pay to fight destructive bugs and insects. Precisely the same thing was said of pioneer farming on the mainland. The early New Englander had a hard time battling with the marauders of the air and forest. When he planted corn, myriads of crows descended upon the tender young shoots by day and the deer came to feed by night. The wheat suffered from the wild goose, wild turkey and the weevil. As the remnant of the crops matured, the ripening corn became the prey of coons and squirrels as well as larger quadrupeds and a great variety of birds assailed the tassels of the wheat. Fruit and vegetables were fair game for a host of feathered and four-footed thieves and insect depredators, from robins and jays to rabbits and grasshoppers. Even chicken raising was no pastime, with hawks circling above the fowls by day and foxes and wild cats prowling by night. Getting a living was an everlasting fight in pioneer days; but the time came when, by the SETTLEMENT OF THE COUNTRY, some of the pests disappeared and the rest became easy to keep down.

That is the keynote of the fight against agricultural pests everywhere—the settlement of the country. Today a man goes out into the middle of a thousand acres of wild land and plants a little garden. At once the pests of the jungle rally on the fresh vegetables and the farmer fights against odds. But let a few score more farmers come in, cultivating the whole thousand acres and each tract has no more destructive insects than its owner can handle. Observe the Chinese market-gardeners whose vegetable farms are within city limits or in long settled suburbs. Don't they succeed? Don't they manage to feed themselves and the town besides? There is no necromancy about it all; it is simply the result of good judgment in picking out a place to cultivate and industry in pushing the work. What the Chinamen do in these respects is possible for the superior Caucasian. In any part of the islands white farmers, if they cultivate a large enough contiguous area, can handle the pest question as easily as they do in Ohio or California or Mississippi.

But destructive insects attack, in the main, the growths of staple or general agriculture, which are not the crops we recommend to the white producers of Hawaii. The farmer here must not expect to get rich in growing the things of which California yields an overplus. If he does he will have nothing to export; and in the home market he will meet the rivalry of Asiatics. His great opportunity lies in special agriculture, the pests to threaten which either have not developed or are easily controlled. Let him avoid wheat, corn and garden truck, except for his own private use, and either go into dairy products, for which the whole country is adapted or the raising of sisal, pineapples, tobacco, peanuts, bananas, poultry, small fruits, vanilla beans, etc. In these pursuits the pests count for little and the profits for much. They are the ones to which the small farmer should be invited and the way prepared for him.

It is to be hoped, now that the Territorial Agricultural bureau has got an invoice of tobacco seeds that ranchers will give them a fair trial. Tobacco grown under canvas is making Connecticut farmers rich and the process might be used to advantage here. Mr. Wray Taylor not only has seeds to give away but will furnish directions for planting them. On the surface of things there would seem to be no reason in soil or climate—there is certainly none in latitude—why the tobacco of Cuba could not be equalled in Hawaii. Who knows but that, in course of time, the Honolulu cigar will be as famous as that of Havana or Manila?

If Bulgaria invades Turkey without Russia's help there will hardly be a Greece spot left of her. The Turk may be a sick man, but that is when he is not fighting. A cannon shot turns him into a warrior who needs several huskier men than the average Bulgarian to hold him down.

Another war in Central America has occurred to vex trade, commerce and international relations. If Mexico would step in and annex these little red-pepper republics it would be a good thing for all concerned. They have no business being at large with firearms.

When Tyndall, the mind reader, comes he might be put on the track of the men who read the Wright I O U's and know what became of them.

The San Francisco Board of Health is candid in one thing. It always admits that there was plague in the city some time ago.

The only way to get out of paying a big income tax under the present law is to reduce your income.

If the President calls an extra session for March 5th, Prince Kuhio will have to make an early start.

LILIUOKALANI'S CLAIM.

There is something pathetic in the appearance of Queen Liliuokalani as a waiting claimant before Congress. To those who know Washington and the ways of the Federal Legislature the utter hopelessness of her quest is plain. The United States is notoriously a poor debtor to those who have no absolute legal grip upon its bounty, save in cases where domestic politics or international treaties support the claim and recommend the claimant. Uncle Sam will pension his soldiers and pay indemnity to foreigners whose governments make out a case, but his own private creditors die of old age without getting a penny. The story of the McGarrahan claim and of sundry others is one which Queen Liliuokalani might study with profit as showing that a just debt does not always ensure collection. To see the play called "The Senator," which is based upon the unhappy career of the McGarrahan claimant, would be a liberal education for her in the inner workings of the appropriations committee.

This is the fourth or fifth year in which Liliuokalani has besieged Congress for indemnity. Perhaps it is the sixth; we are not sure of a year more or less. She began there by taking up her residence at a hotel; later she had a house, or at least sumptuous apartments where she kept a little court in which the unforgettable Julius Palmer figured as First Gentleman. Now she is in a flat. Senators go to see her out of curiosity, say smooth nothings about her claim and pass on to the next curio. Session after session has waxed and waned and nothing has been done for the former sovereign. But hope springs eternal in the human breast and something always happens to convince Liliuokalani that her chance will come next time. Of late years she has been the prey of lobbyists and shysters who were ready to encourage the poor woman for a fee. She is in such hands now; and without knowing it she has armed her enemies with an invincible weapon against her. Congress, which lets just claims go by default, often wishes it had a plausible excuse. None answers that purpose better than the assertion that the claimant has agreed to divide whatever Congress gives with contingent-fee lawyers and lobbyists.

It is true that the Senatorial sub-committee which visited Hawaii last summer recommended that something be done for Liliuokalani but every righteous claimant before Congress whose bill remains unsettled has had the same experience, many of them more than once. It is one thing and a comparatively easy one, to get a favorable word from a sub-committee; it is quite another to pass the chairman of the appropriations committee, the speaker and the professional watchdogs of the Treasury on the floor. But for the course of the President, in making mention of the matter in his message, even the fire claims bill would have had a second defeat. The good words of the Mitchell commission for the former Queen of Hawaii will go with very little force to the minds of men whose business in Congress is to keep appropriations down. Mitchell and his colleagues admit that Liliuokalani has no legal claim upon Federal bounty. They say that her claim must rest solely upon "considerations of national grace, public and private justice, political policy and fair, equitable dealing." If the argument of political policy could be made to stand, all might be well; but every practical man at Washington knows that it does not make an iota of difference to the national party how elections go in Hawaii. As for sentimental reasons they are never able to impress the watchdogs. It sometimes takes a good while to get the widow of a President or a great General on the pension list, so what of a long dethroned dusky Queen of a distant insular possession whose friends do not cast a single vote in national elections?

From the beginning the Queen has had the worst of political advisers. Those she uses here, who are well-meaning, have no knowledge of practical American politics and legislation; those who are not sincere are out after fees. In Washington, as we say, the Queen is the victim of lobbyists. Meanwhile she is incurring a great expense. Before long if she does not stop looking for the pot of gold at the end of a rainbow she will find herself compelled to borrow more money. It is a pitiable outlook for the old lady, who ought to be at home, living within her means and accepting fate with fortitude. She is on the Territorial pension list and she will be wise if she satisfies herself with the good the gods provide and ceases to yearn for the unattainable.

EXTENSION OF QUEEN STREET

The Executive Council at its meeting yesterday morning approved of a plan for the extension of Queen street over a new route. This will be on the line of the present Queen street extension, on through to the Iwilei road. It was the intention formerly to extend the road around the Hackfeld wharf but this plan was changed, and a new road will be built running along the wharf line.

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GENARO RUBINO DI RUBINI.

Assassin who tried to murder King Leopold of Belgium and who stated on trial that the plot included the assassinations of the Kings of England and Spain.

NEW LAUNCH IS LAUNCHED

The old sloop Eagle was re-launched yesterday from Sumner Island, this time as a gasoline launch, with a 20-horse-power Fairbanks-Morse engine. The Eagle is a large boat and is now owned by Wally Davis. It is said that the launch will be pressed into use on the Koolau side of Oahu and take out fishing parties from Honolulu who will go over to the lagoon there via the Pall. She will also be used in and about the harbor here.

Hawaiian Stocks.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 9.—Paauhau, \$16; Hawaiian Commercial, \$43.50; Honokaa, \$13.25; Makaweli, \$27. Onomea, no bids.

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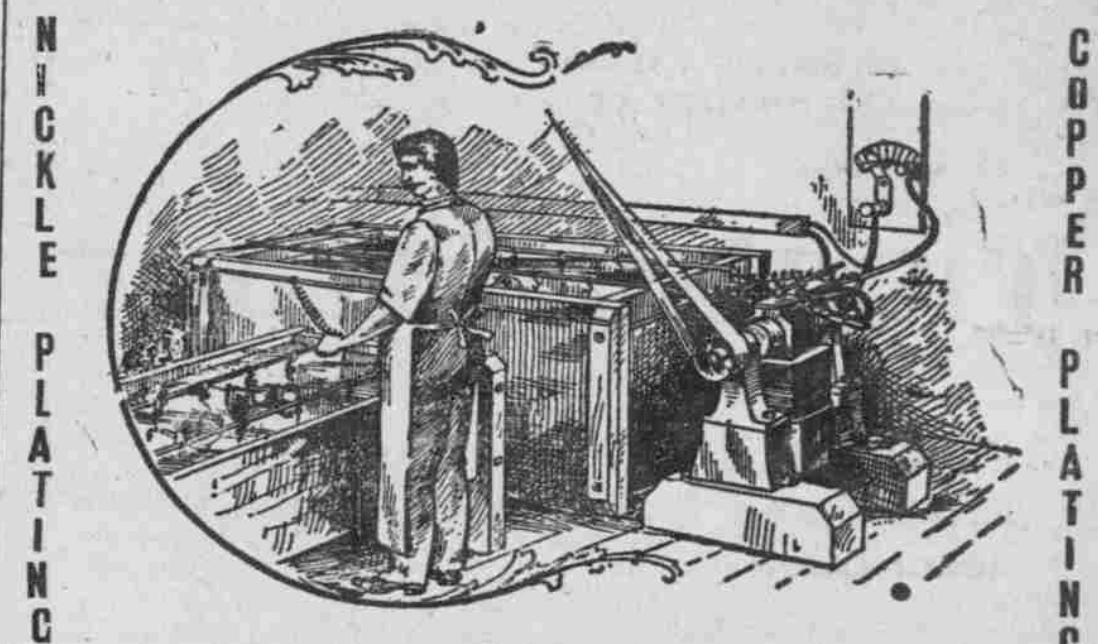
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